



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Elizabeth Porter

District 11

Serving Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette and Suwannee Counties

The Honorable Dean Cannon
Speaker of the House

The Honorable John Legg
Speaker Pro-Tempore

July 20, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This letter is in response to the Commission's call for comments regarding AT&T's proposal to merge with T-Mobile USA, which is under review on the 11-65 docket. Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions on this transaction.

As a state representative of a primarily rural district, I am particularly interested in pursuing ways in which my constituents can improve their lives, access new opportunities, encourage economic growth, and build stronger communities. It is especially challenging to bring new opportunities and jobs to small or rural areas, simply because of the smaller population and location. That's why I was excited to learn about this proposed merger, which would help to accomplish all of those vital goals.

Access to ultra-fast enhanced wireless broadband would bring with it a variety of educational and professional opportunities, like telework, distance learning, and online job training. This technology would also improve access to health care as well as assist health care providers and support staff to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Committee Memberships-

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee-Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee-Energy & Utilities Subcommittee-Federal Affairs Subcommittee-State Affairs Committee

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This technology will allow businesses to compete online in the global marketplace and will encourage growth. For farmers and ranchers, access to wireless broadband will help them to use and benefit from the latest technologies and to retrieve information and news right from their fields.

Of course, building out and improving the existing network to include rural and small communities costs money—and lots of it. That's why this merger would be so ideal: AT&T has committed to this investment, which will benefit the entire state of Florida, both now and well into the future, but which will not require the use of public funds. I urge you to support this merger, the outcome of which will bring possibilities to people and communities, regardless of location. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Porter".

Elizabeth Porter
Member, Florida House of Representatives,
District 11

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Marco Rubio
Florida Congressional Delegation